

## Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01  
FAA-00 DOTE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 /061 W  
-----054626 251748Z /53

R 251631Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7628  
INFO FAA BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24751

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PORS, FR  
SUBJ: INFORMATION ON AMCITS INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT  
HIJACKINGS

REF: STATE 197921

1. SITUATION IN PARIS, AND POST PROCEDURES  
FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION ON AMCITS INVOLVED IN  
AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS, DESCRIBED BELOW. WHILE  
WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON DESIRABILITY IMMEDIATE  
AND AUTOMATIC DETERMINATION OF NAMES OF ALL  
AMERICAN CITIZENS INVOLVED, WE FEEL CONSTRAINED  
TO NOTE THAT, FOR REASONS SET FORTH BELOW, THIS  
WILL RARELY BE POSSIBLE FOR FLIGHTS ORIGINATING  
IN PARIS. WE SUSPECT THE SAME MAY BE TRUE FOR  
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MOST WESTERN EUROPEAN AIRPORTS.

2. NORMALLY, THE ONLY IDENTIFICATION OF  
PASSENGERS ABOARD HIJACKED AIRCRAFT ORIGINATING  
AT THE TWO PARIS AIRPORTS (CDG & ORLY) IS THE  
AIRLINE TICKET, WHICH SHOWS ONLY NAMES (BUT NOT  
NATIONALITY), FLIGHT NUMBERS, AND EMBARKATION AND

DESTINATION POINTS. EXCEPTIONS ARE FLIGHTS TO CAIRO, TEL AVIV, MOSCOW, AND PEKING, WHERE PASSENGERS MUST FILL OUT EMBARKATION CARDS WITH NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, NATIONALITY, FLIGHT NUMBER, EMBARKATION AND DESTINATION POINTS. SUCH EMBARKATION CARDS MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED ON AN AD HOC BASIS FROM PASSENGERS TO SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES OR THE MIDDLE EAST AT TIMES WHEN UNUSUAL POLITICAL CONDITIONS PREVAIL.

3. EMBARKATION CARDS ARE COLLECTED BY THE POLICE DE L'AIR AT PASSPORT CONTROL. IN THE CASE OF A HIJACKING INVOLVING A CARRIER ORIGINATING FROM CDG OR ORLY, AND WHERE EMBARKATION CARDS WERE USED, POLICE PERSONNEL WILL SORT OUT THE CARDS AND CLASSIFY THEM BY FLIGHT NUMBER AND EVENTUALLY PASSENGER NAMES AND NATIONALITIES. THIS IS DONE MANUALLY WITH AVAILABLE PERSONNEL, A PROCESS THAT MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL HOURS, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT WHEN WORK FORCE IS REDUCED. (IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN 12 HOURS IN THE CASE OF THE RECENT AIR FRANCE AIRBUS PARIS-CAIRO HIJACK.)

4. THE EMBASSY NORMALLY RECEIVES FIRST WORD OF A HIJACKING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR OTHER POSTS OR CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM OUR NEWS AGENCY TICKERS. IF THE HIJACKED FLIGHT IS FROM A FRANCE-BASED OPERATOR, ORIGINATED FROM FRENCH TERRITORY, OR IS ON OR ENROUTE TO FRENCH TERRITORY, OUR C&R SECTION AND THE TICKER MONITORS ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO NOTIFY THE CIVAIR ATTACHE, FAA REPRESENTATIVE AND MINECON, ONE OF WHOM WILL ESTABLISH IMMEDIATE LIAISON WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND AIRLINES. THE FAA REPRESENTATIVE IS ALSO UNDER STANDING FAA INSTRUCTIONS TO ALERT THE FAA BRUSSELS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF ANY HIJACKINGS COMING TO HIS ATTENTION THAT OCCUR IN, OR ARE EXPECTED TO PENETRATE, HIS GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. THIS INFORMATION IS THEN FED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL CENTER IN FAA HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON. IF THE FIRST ALERT IS RECEIVED DURING NON-WORKING HOURS THE EMBASSY AND CONSULAR DUTY OFFICERS ARE ALSO INFORMED AND MAY BE CALLED IN TO ASSIST.

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INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 /061 W  
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R 251631Z AUG 77  
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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24751

5. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE AND AUTOMATIC WAY  
TO OBTAIN THE NAMES OF AMCITS ON HIJACKED AIRCRAFT  
SINCE THE EMBASSY DEPENDS ON THE POLICE DE L'AIR  
OR THE AIRLINE TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION. EXCEPT  
ON FLIGHTS SPECIFIED IN PARA 2, THE POLICE WOULD  
BE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY NATIONALITY, AND THE AIRLINE  
COULD DO SO FROM THE TICKET STUBS ONLY BY TIME-  
CONSUMING RESEARCH AND GUESSWORK. IN A TENSE  
ON-GOING HIJACK SITUATION, PLACING TOO MUCH PRESSURE  
ON THE AUTHORITIES FOR INFORMATION THEY MAY NOT HAVE  
IN HAND CAN BE HIGHLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. ESTABLISHING  
THE IDENTITY AND NATIONALITY OF PASSENGERS FOR A  
FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IS A DISTRACTING AND RELATIVELY  
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LOW PRIORITY TASK FOR PERSONNEL DEALING WITH AN  
ON-GOING HIJACK, AND PRESSING FOR SUCH INFORMATION MAY

SERVE TO CUT OFF ALL COMMUNICATIONS, SO EMBASSY OFFICERS MUST EXERCISE THEIR OWN JUDGMENT IN DETERMINING HOW FAR TO GO IN SUCH SITUATIONS. FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION ON NATIONALITY AND NEXT OF KIN MAY BE OBTAINABLE IN ISOLATED CASES FROM AIRPORT INSURANCE VENDORS.

6. IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE NATIONALITY OF PASSENGERS IS NOT ON RECORD, PERHAPS OUR BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO COMMUNICATE THE NAMES OF ALL (RPT ALL) PASSENGERS AND CREW TO THE DEPARTMENT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AS SOON AS THIS INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED. THIS WOULD AT LEAST PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH MATERIAL TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES. REQUEST CONFIRMATION IF THIS PROCEDURE IS TO BE FOLLOWED. ALSO REQUEST INFORMATION ON HOW DEPARTMENT FIRST LEARNED OF AUGUST 12 AF HIJACKING.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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